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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shinichi SATO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2621

Appln No : 09/891,165

Filed : June 26, 2001

For : Image Processing Apparatus and Image Processing Method

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231



Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, § 1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 25, 2001, Applicants hereby call the following information to the Examiner's attention:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of the notice of the Reason for the Rejection from the Japanese Patent Office dated May 28, 2002, with respect to counterpart Patent Application No. 2000-205083, in which the Japanese Patent Examiner cited the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10-290462 to RICOH, published October 27, 1998; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No 2000-134459 to KONICA CORP,

P21149.A03

published May 12, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), and to the extent necessary, the undersigned certifies that each of the above-noted documents was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to filing of this statement.

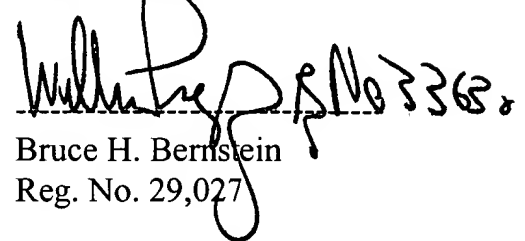
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and cite the above documents. Copies of the above-noted documents as well as English language abstracts are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached. A copy of the Notice of the Reasons for Rejection from the Japanese Patent Office is also enclosed along with an English language translation.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form to confirm consideration of these documents and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

August 12, 2002
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Respectfully submitted,
Shinichi SATO et al.


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